

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 120285

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ORIGIN EB-07

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COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ICD/TRP:MMWALL:BLO

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R 151639Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 120285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, EAGR, HO

SUBJECT: COFFEE RETENTION

REFS: (A) STATE 34044, (B) PARKER-SHULER TELCON 5/6/76

1. AS PER REFTTEL, THERE IS GROWING CONCERN OVER HIGH COFFEE PRICES. THE CONCERN CAUSED BY THE PRICE SURGE HAS NOW BEEN UNDERSCORED BY CLAIMS OF A MAJOR U.S. COFFEE ROASTING FIRM THAT SOME PRODUCING COUNTRIES ARE WITHHOLDING COFFEE FROM THE MARKET. ONE OF THE COUNTRIES MENTIONED IS HONDURAS.

2. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES INFORMATION REPORTED REF (B) DEALING WITH SUPPOSED 10 PERCENT RETENTION OF HONDURAN COFFEE CROP. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON THE GOH ACTION. CAN IT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE 1973/74 CENTRAL AMERICAN COFFEE RETENTION SCHEME? IS THIS SCHEME STILL OPERATIVE?

3. FIGURES ARE ALSO NEEDED ON AMOUNT OF EXPORTS IN FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1976 COMPARED TO SIMILAR PERIODS IN PREVIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 120285

YEARS, PERCENTAGE OF CROP SOLD BY APRIL OF THIS YEAR

COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS, SIZE OF MOST RECENT COFFEE
CROP, AND CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED STOCK LEVELS. CURRENT
F.O.B. COFFEE PRICES AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECEIPTS FROM

COFFEE WOULD ALSO PROVE USEFUL.

4. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF REPLY COULD DIFFERENTIATE
BETWEEN STOCKS HELD BY PRIVATE EXPORTERS IN ANTICIPATION
OF HIGHER PRICES, AND THOSE HELD BY GOVERNMENT
ACTIONS. KISSINGER

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